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Item 12 (b) and (c) of the provisional agenda*
Toponymic data files and gazetteers: data management and interoperability; and data services, applications and products (for example, gazetteers and web services)

Maintaining and publishing the geographical names database (GN-DE) within the German Spatial Data Infrastructure (GDI-DE)

Summary**

In Germany, all geographical names-related information on several (topographic) vector data products based on a scale level of 1:250,000 and smaller is maintained in a single database entitled "Geographical names of Germany (GN-DE)". Through unique identifiers, the names entered in the database are linked unambiguously to all databases and products provided by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG). At present, the database contains about 160,000 entries, including more than 1,300 names in the minority languages Sorbian (Upper and Lower), Frisian and Danish. The administrative and maintenance tasks for the database are carried out in Frankfurt am Main, while the (Gazetteer) web service is facilitated through the National Geodata Centre at the Federal Agency in Leipzig (see www.geodatenzentrum.de).

The GN-DE data set is currently used for provision of geographical names data within the German Spatial Data Infrastructure (GDI-DE). In 2015, the geographical names data and the Implementing Rules on Interoperability of Spatial Data Sets and Services (that is, data specification by geographical names (annex I)) of the European geospatial data infrastructure (keyword: INSPIRE) were brought into conformity. According to the INSPIRE schedule, countries members of the European Union will be required to realize this only by the year 2017.

The geographical names data set of BKG (conforming to INSPIRE) is already available through the European data portal (http://www.europeandataportal.eu/de/). That portal collects metadata from public sector information which is available in European countries.

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* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report, which was prepared by Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Jörgen Spradau and Sandra Niering (all Germany), Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD), is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/40/CRP.40.

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